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# NEWSLETTER

March 1967

No. 84

## "WE WANT IN, TOO..."

The people of Union County, Oregon, were so successful with their development program that Wallowa and Baker counties decided to join Union in a tri-county effort to boost their economies by \$20 million yearly.

The Union County program, led by a former county agent, Ted Sidor, helped establish a new \$2 million crop of peas, doubled production of many farms, and set land-use patterns that could insure orderly development of the entire county in future years.

The new pea crop -- to be used for canning -- was made possible by development of water resources and by shifting dryland grain and forage production to irrigated agriculture.

The water development also cleared the way for other high value crops and more livestock.



## "BREAKFAST IS READY, KIDS"

More than 10,000 children in 81 schools were served nourishing breakfasts in January, the first month of a two-year pilot program.

The idea is to provide breakfasts for children who otherwise might skip the meal because they are from low-income families or because they have to leave home early and travel long distances to school.

So far, 26 States and Guam have started breakfast programs with the \$2 million appropriated under the 1966 Child Nutrition Act. Federal help includes cash and donated food. It covers most of the food costs. Local communities pick up the rest of the tab.

Almost half of the students receive free breakfasts. The others pay 10 to 15 cents.

## CO-OP(ERATION) HELPING PLANT EXPAND

"It is impossible for us to put a dollar value on the service and goodwill built up between the co-op and our company," W. F. Threatt says.

Mr. Threatt is president of Congaree Iron & Steel Company (CISCO), Congaree, South Carolina, where teamwork among the area's citizens, their electric supplier and the Federal Government is helping the company create new jobs for 100 people and increase incomes for 350 others.



When CISCO, the largest employer in the area, outgrew its facilities, it found it would cost \$800,000 to expand and modernize. That's when local citizens pitched in.

They formed the Tri-County Development Corporation and raised \$87,500 by selling stock and other securities. The Small Business Administration loaned \$350,000, and CISCO loaned the corporation \$69,000.

The Tri-County Electric Cooperative at St. Matthews borrowed \$300,000 from the Rural Electrification Administration, and reloaned the money to the corporation.

The Plant expansion is to be completed early this year. The present \$820,000 payroll is expected to increase to \$1.5 million by the end of 1968.

Thirty area residents were being trained as steel workers, and another 70 were expected to be hired early this year. Eighty-five percent of these future employees are Negroes.

Mr. Threatt said "at times it seemed that a new set of transformers and electrical service would become obsolete every six months. During this period of rapid growth, our (electric) cooperative never kept us waiting or complained about the many changes necessary for them to make..."

At least one other steel maker--a reinforcement manufacturing company--has said it is interested in locating near Congaree.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES INCREASE REPORTABLE EARNINGS

Self-employed farmers may now report two-thirds of their gross income up to \$2,400 for social security purposes as a result of the 1965 amendments to the Social Security Act.

Previously, the upper limit for optional reporting was \$1,800.

A brochure, "Self-Employed Farmers," gives all the details. It's available from Social Security offices or from Social Security Administration, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C., and the local office of any USDA agency.

#### WATER FOR THE FUTURE

A \$12 million project will link four Tennessee counties in a water system which is expected to handle the future needs of their cities and communities.



In most cases, individual small community water systems have been successful, but sometimes communities ran short when industries moved in or when the communities grew rapidly.



This problem will be eliminated under the new setup. The communities in the counties of Maury, Marshall, Coffee and Bedford will tie into a trunk line connecting the water systems of Columbia, Lewisburg, Manchester, Tullahoma and Shelbyville. If one city runs low on water and another community has plenty, the one with plenty would pipe water to the one which needed it.

A Housing and Urban Development grant will help finance the \$12 million project.

#### NEW INDUSTRIES BOOST JOBS IN SUNSHINE STATE

New industries which the local resource development committee helped bring in- to Sumter County, Florida, will employ nearly 400 people and have yearly pay-rolls of more than \$1.5 million.

Because the county's small vegetable farmers couldn't compete with larger producers in other areas, community groups cooperated to obtain small factories.

The resource development committee helped form the Sumter Development Company and Wildwood Development Corporation. The Small Business Administration provided the financing.

The first plant set up manufactured cardboard boxes. A new chemical plant using local limestone will employ from 30 to 40 men. A shoe company plans to increase its work force from 60 to 225. County officials and private citizens cooperated with the committee to acquire land for a State prison farm to employ about 100 people.



The recreation subcommittee promoted construction of boating, picnicking and swimming areas on two lakes. Boat ramps, and camping and picnicking facilities were set up on the Withlacoochee River.

#### TASK FORCE LEARNS MONEY ISN'T CURE-ALL

A task force of Farmers Home Administration home supervisors is learning that hope, understanding and cooperation play important roles in helping low-income rural families escape poverty.

The task force, established shortly after the Economic Opportunity Act was passed in 1961, is working in more than 60 of the nation's poorest rural communities. The women are trained in home economics and social work.

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They are attacking all aspects of poverty--despair, ignorance, poor health, slum housing--and they are trying to inform the poor of programs that can help.

For example, in Arkansas a family of 10 who had lived in poverty most of their lives received an FHA loan to build their first new house. The home supervisor helped the family select the right house plans, advised them on colors and material for interior decoration, kitchen arrangements, and gave advice on home management, including family health matters.



In Canton, Mississippi, the home supervisor helped a family of six to place their blind 16-year-old daughter in a special school.

And in Barron, Wisconsin, the home supervisor helped 75 homemakers to use the Food Stamp Program to improve family nutrition.

#### HOOK, LINE AND SHOTGUN

Some 15 to 20 farmers in Brooks County, Georgia, are reeling in an extra \$500 to \$1,500 a year, thanks to a pay-as-you-go hunting and fishing project.

They are members of the Brooks County Wildlife Association, which Extension Service helped organize. The members have built duck ponds and bird feeding stations, planted feeding strips, cleared and restocked ponds, developed campgrounds and picnic areas, and maintained access roads.



The association has 55 members. Some of them let sportsmen hunt and fish on their land for a fee. Game and fish in the county include quail, doves, ducks, bass, bream, catfish, deer, squirrels, rabbits, and turkeys.

The project is sponsored by the Brooks County Resource Development Committee and the Cooperative Extension Service.